

## HYMN.

## TUNE AURILIA.

Earth's Christless millions dying,  
Defiled by sin and shame,  
In deepest darkness lying—  
No knowledge of his name—  
New call on us to bring them  
Glad tidings of our Lord,  
Now plead with us to tell them  
The message of his word.

And with their earnest pleading  
Lo, now before us stands  
Our Saviour, interceding,  
With piercéd feet and hands !  
Beseeching us to help them  
For whom, in love, He died,  
Beseeching us to lead them  
Where souls are purified.

Then haste with footsteps eager  
Where Christless souls are found ;  
Lift high Immanuel's banner,  
Proclaim the Gospel's sound ;  
For brighter gleams His glory,  
For deeper rolls its flood,  
As heroes tell the story,  
"Redemption through His blood."

W. M. S. HYMNAL.

## FIELD STUDY FOR MAY.

China, for which we have to pray this month, is an exceedingly interesting country for many reasons. It is a vast empire, and until a few years ago so walled up that no missionaries could get or stay inside. That is why there is so little Christian civilization there yet, and why so much ignorance and sin prevail. Then there are so many people in it. Nearly 400,000,000, which is one quarter of the population of the globe. Napoleon was once asked why he did not make war on the Chinese and he said, "There are too many of them." Yet you see the Japanese, a very much smaller nation, is now making war upon them successfully. One reason of its success is that it has learned so much more from civilized nations. We hope that some time the people of China will thank God even for this war: they will, if through it they obtain the Gospel.

China has always thought she had the best learning, the best customs, the best worship and the best army in the world. Now she is finding out her mistake. She has many religions—one of them is very queer—you would think it very funny to worship your grandmothers and grandfathers, yet that is what they do and call it Ancestor worship. So they are very kind and respectful to their parents. But you can see how it would be a hindrance to progress of any kind, for it would keep them looking back instead of forward. That worship and many others will die out when they

learn of Christ. You must read on the first page how two Chinese Bibles have lately found their way to the palace, and every one of you must pray that the Lord will bless them to the conversion of the whole Chinese nation.

The Chinese language is the most difficult one in the world, and that is hard for the missionaries. They write straight up and down, in perpendicular columns. They read backward, beginning at what we call the end of the book, at the top of the page and going down. They have frames with sliding balls with which they add and figure. When a Chinaman meets a friend he does not shake his friend's hand, but his own, and instead of saying "How do you do," asks "Have you eaten your rice?" When he wants to pray he writes a prayer, or buys one already written and burns it that it may go up to his god. They are very superstitious, burn fire-crackers in their grave yards and worship the spirits of the dead. They wear garments made of cotton or silk and wad them in winter to make them warm. Somebody says they look like pin-cushions walking. They are an industrious people, skilled in mechanics, not noted for sincerity, and have a good opinion of themselves. Opium is the great curse.

The women and children are most to be pitied. We all know what they suffer with their poor crippled feet. A society has lately been formed for the prevention of that cruelty, called "The Heavenly Foot Society." Let us pray that it may prosper.

The need of China as of all heathen lands is Medical Missions. A hospital is to be established in Chentu, and our W. M. S. has already sent out a doctor and trained nurse. Miss Brackbill, whose interesting letter on Chinese schools we publish this month, is one of our missionaries. Let us pray for them all as they work for the salvation of the Chinese

S. E. S.

## QUESTIONS FOR MAY.

For what country do we pray this month ?  
Why is there so little civilization and so much ignorance and sin ?  
How many people there ?  
What did Napoleon say ?  
What nation is making war on them now, and what is the secret of success ?  
What do we hope for the Chinese in regard to this war ?  
What has China always thought of herself ?  
Tell us what you know of Ancestor worship ?  
Is it a help or hindrance to progress and why ?  
When will that worship, and others, die out ?  
What new society has been formed ?  
What is the great need of China ?  
What has our W. M. S. done towards the hospital in Chentu ?  
Who is another Missionary there ?  
Can we help them ?